

1   **Q: Please state your name and address.**

2   A: My name is Reid Radke, and I live at 8 Clay Court Chapin, SC  
3   29036

4   **Q: Do you have issues with your water and sewer service?**

5   A: My main issue is the high cost of water and sewer service. One  
6       person, my wife is here daily at the house. I spend all week in  
7       Charleston and come home on the weekend. Both my kids are  
8       in college and live on campus. We pay approximately \$150 per  
9       month for water and wastewater removal. The water system at  
10      Forty Love Point is a pass-through system. We don't use a lot  
11      of water; we don't have a swimming pool; we don't water our  
12      lawn. We pay \$20 per month for drinking water.  
13      Basically, we are purchasing water from the City of Columbia  
14      through the Blue Granite Company. Less than half a mile away,  
15      at the Village at Hilton, they purchase water directly from the  
16      City of Columbia and pay approximately \$40 per month. They  
17      pay a lot less than we do. I pay more for water here in Chapin  
18      than I did living in Long Island, NY.

19 **Q: How do you feel about Blue Granite's proposal to impose**  
20 **automatic rate increases on its customer when the price of water**  
21 **goes up?**

22 A: I think this would be a very dangerous situation. I can see Blue  
23 Granite increasing our bills exponentially without even having to  
24 go to court. We'd have no assurance that the price of water had  
25 actually risen.

26 Every time Blue Granite wants to increase our bills, we need to  
27 have the Office of Regulatory Staff conduct an audit. Thirty days'  
28 notice would not be enough time for an audit to be done. We  
29 would not have enough time to submit comments.

30 The cost for water and sewer is extremely high already.

31 I'm very concerned that Blue Granite will soon be sending pass on  
32 costs such as; construction costs, or sewage treatment costs,  
33 without any hearing before the Public Service Commission.

34 **Q: How does the Forty Love neighborhood feel about Blue**  
35 **Granite?**

36 A: For a couple of years, I was president of the Forty Love  
37 Homeowners' Association. A lot of our efforts on the board  
38 were spent on tackling water and sewer issues. Some of those

39 issues have been resolved. We have a pass-through system  
40 with adequate water pressure and water that we can drink,  
41 ONLY because we complained as a neighborhood to the Public  
42 Service Commission during rate cases over several years.  
43 I don't think that the answer is fewer rate cases! Without rate  
44 cases, we would still be drinking brown well water with iron  
45 bacteria and e coli.

46 **Q: What is the solution to this problem?**

47 A: If Blue Granite wants to impose automatic rate increases based  
48 on a rise in the cost of water, the rate increases should be  
49 capped at a very low amount. That amount should be set by the  
50 Office of Regulatory Staff.  
51 Automatic rate increases should be limited to the cost of water.  
52 There should be no automatic rate increases allowed for  
53 construction contracts or wastewater removal services.  
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